UNITED STATES KARATE ALLIANCE

BUSHIDO BULLETIN

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Directors: James H. Hawkes & Dr. David Jordan

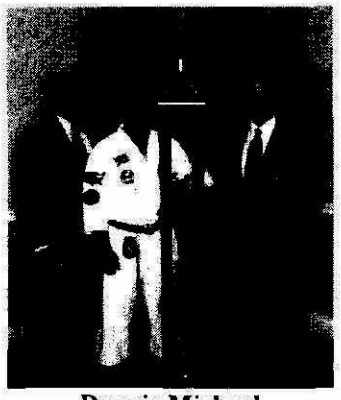
# 2002 USKA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP NEWS

by Eddie Bethea, Jr.

It's not proper to say "you shoulda oughta been there," but if you were not there you have really missed a treat. The USKA World Championships are becoming more and more spectacular each year. Mr. Hawkes and Dr. Jordan have given everything they have to give in making this the world's premier martial arts tournament. In doing so, it has allowed many young martial artists to grow in other areas of training, like koshiki, continuous sparring, team events, and the list goes on. Another facet of sports martial arts that is getting a boost at the USKA World Championships is Chanbara. This event seems to be growing in interest among adults and youths of all levels, kyus and yudansha alike. It is amazing how it all gets accomplished in four days beginning on Thursday.

I heard numerous accolades about how well things went for particular groups who were not US Karate Alliance members and that is certainly a big plus. So often when competitors are away from their home turf you hear complaint after complaint about being shafted by the judges or the referee. They will say it is because they weren't wearing the patch or that the judges only looked at the "favorite son" and many other reasons. This year, the competitors were very accepting of what they received for the work that they have done in preparing for this year's event. That certainly leads me to believe that most of those who attended this year's event went home with positive motivating experiences.

At the USKA Hall Of Fame meeting, preparations were begun for next year's tournament which will provide for an even more exciting event. Along with all that **Mr. Hawkes** and **Dr. Jordan** do already, next year, we will try to locate and get as many of the Trias International Society Members as possible to attend the event. The world championships will be celebrating its 40th anniversary, and to have some of the early competitors and even world champions to come would be spectacular. Also planned, is to have photos and other memorabilia from the past in order that the young can see where the martial arts have come from and where it is going. As you read this bulletin, and if there is anything that you could let the organization borrow for display, please contact USKA Headquarters by phone or email. Everything that will be on display will be secured in order that nothing of value is misplaced.



**Donnie Michael**

A special thanks goes out to our Hall of Famers, Bushido Society Members, numerous black belts, competitors, and volunteers who attended and supported this year's event. Our Hall of Fame members and Bushido Society members were very helpful and instrumental in officiating the tournament and ensuring that things were done in a timely manner. Many of the Bushido Society Members, of the United States Karate-Do Kai, who attended this year's event, gave pins to a number of their brothers and sisters in the US Karate Alliance Hall Of Fame as a gesture of unification. It is a pleasure to have them with us each year assisting in any way possible. Again, thank you all.

The United States Karate Alliance Hall Of Fame inducted one new member this year. That member had distinguished himself through his support in attending the USKA World Championships and the Nationals events, being a practitioner of karate for over twenty years, demonstrating loyalty to his teacher, and being a two time World Champion and a National Champion in Kobudo. He is also an outstanding member in his community and operates a dojo with approximately 200 students. The new inductee was **Donnie Michael** of Kokomo, Indiana who also won his third World Championship in Kobudo. Donnie Michael is a student of **Eddie B. Bethea, Jr.** and is continuing in his footsteps by having won with the same Bo kata with which Mr. Bethea won the 1987 World Championship in Kobudo. In Michael's Black Belt resume he wrote that he wanted to someday be able to wear the same patch as his Sensei. At the time, it was the Trias International Society Patch that was so prevalent. Today, the

USKA HOF patch wears with the same honor and prestige and there are just as many who still aspire to wear it.

Although there are those who do not wear the HOF patch, there is still much done in the way of recognizing those who might someday be inducted. These individuals are the men, women, boys, and girls who have competed in tournament after tournament and won or placed in the national points race. Most of them are triple or double crown winners. For the past three years, the USKA has recognized these individuals as "All Americans" for their sustained efforts, dedication, and loyalty. Again, these individuals may or may not have been black belt, adult or youth. The award was first recommended by **Mr. Tom Pisut** at the 1999 World Championships, and was instituted the following year. You may review the list of those receiving the award later in the bulletin.

**Joe Dupaquier**

Congratulations to you all.

You already know that the tournament was exciting, and you can plainly see that there was a lot going on. However, the spotlight was on when the champions took to the stage as the tournament drew to a close. In each of the black belt divisions, it was a Hall Of Famer who walked away with the World Championship Trophy. Donnie Michael was first to be a three-peat in winning the Weapons Division Grand Championship. This was the first ever three-peat in the weapons division. **Joe Dupaquier** was the next Hall Of Famer to come up with the Grand Championship win in the Kata Division. Joe put together a dynamic kata interpretation with his teammates to defeat last year's champion John Pat Bullock. His Bunkai had the crowd oooing and aaahing for quite sometime after demonstrating the effectiveness of kata technique for self defense. He will undoubtedly be very hard to beat next year. I'm sure there's someone out there working hard toward next year's world grand championship award, while keeping in mind that Mr. Dupaquier will be there hoping to defend his title.

**Latoya Venson**

Finally, it was time for the tournament to come to a close, but not without some good kumite matches. First, the women were

up, and it is amazing to see how strong our women are in kumite. The finalists were **Teresa Davies** the defending champion, **Latoya Venson, Brandy Allday, Susan Watts**, and **Michelle Moses. Latoya Venson** from Chicago, IL was recognized by winning the Women's Black Belt Grand Championship Kumite Title.

**John Pat Bullock**

Just to mention the men finalists, it was **Terry Gruel, Tim Davies, Lance Hoover, John Manley, Joe Hannon, Daniel Jordan,** and **John Pat Bullock** the defending champion. When the elimination rounds were over, it was the two Johns. Everyone could recall what a battle these two have had in the previous three years and knew that it would be a very serious battle again. Then it happened! John Pat was off to a blazing start by thwarting the speed of John Manley in his first attack with a remarkable reverse punch. From that point on, it seemed as if John Pat knew exactly what John Manley's next move would be. When time was called, John Pat was ahead by four points and ready to be called the 2002 Grand Champion of the Men's Black Belt Kumite Division and also claiming a three-peat. There have been few to claim a three-peat in kumite, and **John Pat Bullock** is on the list, and we can all rest assured that he will be there trying to be the first to claim number four.

# MORE 2002 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP NEWS!

by Sue Hawkes

As always, the USKA World Championships were an event not to be missed, as Mr. Bethea stated in the previous article. There was something for everyone, and everyone left with more knowledge, experience, understanding, and new acquaintances. There was so much to do and see. There were many events to participate in and watch, the world champion finals, demonstrations, friends to catch up with, and sites to see. The Annual Awards Banquet was held on Saturday. As usual, attendees dress up for the prestigious event where martial artists of all ranks, styles, ages, and amount of experience are recognized. Martial artists just beginning their journey, to the up and coming future Hall of Famers are recognized. The top ten in the Alliance National Points Competition are recognized with a certificate at the banquet. The top three are awarded trophies. When

the competitors come forward to receive their award, the first place winners give a short speech to those attending the banquet. The banquet is one of my favorite events at the World Championships. It always feels so good to hear competitors of all ages thanking their instructors, family, parents, and other competitors for helping them achieve not only this award, but making them better martial artists all the way around. "I want to thank my Mom for driving me to karate and taking me to all these tournaments," one little boy exclaimed. Another thanked her fellow competitors for pushing her so hard at every tournament.

**Stan O'Hara**

Each year, the US Karate Alliance and the Hall of Fame recognizes an individual who exemplifies the things that Grandmaster Trias represented by presenting them with the Trias Memorial Award. This year's recipient was **Stan O'Hara** from Bakersfield, California. Mr. O'Hara is an incredible martial artist who has overcome much adversity with the help of his martial arts training. Mr. O'Hara owns and operates Goju Ryu Karate-Do of Bakersfield in California. He began his training in 1963, and continues today. Mr. O'Hara has had to deal with some severe physical adversities. In each case, his karate training has greatly enhanced his recovery both physically and mentally. In January of 2001, Stan O'Hara had back surgery and while in the hospital, he contracted a syndrome which paralyzes a person almost completely. All he could do was breathe. Mr. O'Hara credits his Sanchin breathing in helping him through this most difficult time. After six weeks in the hospital, using a walker, he was released from the hospital. Where did he go on his way home? His dojo of course. Mr. O'Hara is a credit to the martial arts.

We will be featuring Stan O'Hara in an upcoming Bushido Bulletin.

Our All-American recipients were recognized at the Awards Banquet for being outstanding competitors in more than one aspect of karate. Double, Triple, and Quad point winners are awarded with the All-American or Junior All-American Award. Adult Black Belts receive the All-American, while Adult Kyus and Youth competitors receive the Junior All-American. Congratulations to All Americans:

**Teresa Davies**
**Daniel Jordan**

and to Junior All-Americans:

**Mikali Birt**
**Jordon Burgess**
**Renee Clevenger**
**Dwain Hannibal**
**Doug Holmes**
**Sandra Jovanovic**
**Chris Otwell**
**Richard Poage**

**Joann Saylor**
**Paul Saylor**
**Mamie Seago**
**Heather Shaw**
**Matthew Steele**
**Keili Summey**
**Tori Summey**
**Jennifer Thompson**
**Jessica Young**
and International All-Americans:
**Miguel Angel Ramirez**
**Jose Maria Miedes**
**Miguel Sanuy**

The Finals, held on Sunday evening, featured incredible demonstrations and outstanding competition. Demonstrations were performed by international teams, **Bruce Heilman** and his Okinawa Kobudo demo team, and **Fumio Demura** and his students.

**Bruce Heilman** and his team *performed traditional* Okinawa Kobudo forms using such weapons as the bo, sai, tunfa, nunchaku, eiku, and kama. Their demonstration of traditional Okinawan Katas showed the practical application of the weapon along with its careful manipulation. Be sure to keep an eye out for a weapons seminar at the 2003 Nationals instructed by Mr. & Mrs. Heilman.

**Paul Ramirez**

**Autumn (A.J.) Stookey**

**Lesley Litton**

**Fumio Demura's** demonstrations are always a highlight, and this year was no exception. Two of his students, **Kevin Suzuki** and **Benny Sorrentino**, portrayed two students who were "feeling their oats" one day, and conspired to "Let's get Sensei." Much to their surprise, and our amusement, Sensei, portrayed by Fumio Demura, was not going to be "gotten." It appeared that these two had much to learn. In this amusing, yet wonderfully executed demonstration, Demura Sensei effectively defended *himself against two* surprise attackers. Mr. Suzuki & Mr. Sorrentino, both black belts, did an excellent job performing with their Sensei Fumio Demura. What an exciting demonstration of practical martial arts application. Remember to sign up for a seminar by Fumio Demura at the 2003

Nationals in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

World Championships inspire world-class competition. **Paul Ramirez, Autumn (A.J.) Stookey, Lesley Litton, Jon Lietz, Vicki Guin, Joe's Bon Bon's, Joe Dupaquier, Latoya Venson, John Pat Bullock,** and **Donnie Michael** all performed exceptionally and took home grand champion honors.

**John Lietz**

**Paul Ramirez**, an orange belt under instructor **Pat Feltey**, was the Youth Beginning Kata Grand Champion. **Autumn (A.J.) Stookey**, a student of **Glenn Keeney's** and a veteran competitor, won the Youth Advanced Kata Grand Champion Title. **Ric Quayhagen's** student, **Lesley Litton**, became the Adult Kyu Kata Grand Champion.

**Vicki Guin**

In weapons, **Jon Lietz**, a student of **Herb Johnson's**, took Youth Weapons Grand Champion honors. **Vicki Guin**, who trains under instructor **Joe Dupaquier**, earned the Adult Kyu Weapons Grand Championship. **Donnie Michael** defended his Black Belt Weapons Grand Champion Title, obtaining the title for the third year. Mr. Michael is a student of **Eddie Bethea, Jr.**

As you read in the previous article, **Joe Dupaquier** took Black Belt Kata Grand Champion honors. **John Pat Bullock** defended his Black Belt Men Kumite Grand Champion Title, and holds the title for his third year in a row. Mr. Dupaquier, and Mr. Bullock are both students of **Dr. David Jordan** in Louisiana. **Latoya Venson**, daughter and student of **John Venson**, became the Black Belt Women Kumite Grand Champion.

The Team Kata Grand Champion trophy was awarded to **Joe's Bon Bon's. Gabrielle Garner, Katy Hoogerwerf,** and **Sandy Cheung**, students of Joe Dupaquier's made up the awesome team.

**James Hawkes & Dr. David Jordan,** directors of the USKA, would like to thank all who attended the 2002 World Championships. "We appreciate your continued support, and look forward to seeing you next year." They would also like to thank the numerous volunteers, competitors, and black belts who helped to make the world championships such a great success. "Without your help, it could not be done. Thank you!"

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